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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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- As of 1 September 1953, the USIA retail outlet in Eisenstadt, Burgenland, was being cleared of stock, part of which was being sent to Wiener Neustadt and part to a USIA store in Vienna XXI. Since the USIA stores in Rudersdorf and Guessing have been closed, there are only three USIA stores left in Burgenland, at Lackenbach, Oberpullendorf and Oberwart. ¹
- The Lichtenwoerther Maschinen und Metallwarenfabrik G.m.b.H., a USIA plant at Pottendorferstrasse 162, Wiener Neustadt, is going to be closed down because of economic difficulties. Since about the end of August, there have been transfers of machinery from the Lichtenwoerther plant to the Rax Werke G.m.b.H., another USIA plant at Pottendorferstrasse 39. Until recently, the Lichtenwoerther plant had employed 106 persons; by 24 September 1953, the staff had been reduced to 40. Only 12 persons were fired outright; 48 workers, four employees and two apprentices were transferred to the Rax Werke. ²
- The works councils of the USIA factories are actively promoting the 1953/54 basic training course of discussions organized by the KPOe. Because of the general reduction of personnel in USIA plants, non-communist workers are under special pressure to accept the "invitation" to participate in the course since an unfavorable attitude toward this political indoctrination might lead to their being dismissed.

Comments:

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- Guessing and Rudersdorf were reportedly closed down in late July or early August 1953 at about the same time the following Vienna stores were closed: Vienna X, Tolbushinstrasse; Vienna IV, Mayerhofgasse 1; Vienna XXI, Schlosshoferstrasse; Vienna X, Schrankenberggasse.
- The Lichtenwoerther plant has been well organized by the KPOe and an effort is being made to transfer the politically reliable communists to the Rax Werke.

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